

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CAB-02 COME-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02
/056 W

-----051659Z 069441 /53

P 051225Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2796

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN CG FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH AIRPORT PROJECT

1. APRIL 1 EDITIONS OF ZAIRIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED REPORT THAT PREVIOUS WEEKEND LOAN OF 225 MILLION FRENCH FRANCS WAS SIGNED BY CONSORTIUM OF FRENCH BANKS AND GOZ FOR ENLARGEMENT OF AIRPORT AT GOMA FROM 1,000 METERS TO 3,000 METERS AND FOR THE BUILDING OF A CONTROL TOWER.

2. APRIL 2 EMBOFF DISCUSSED REPORT WITH FRENCH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR HATTON, WHO, AS EXPECTED, BILLED THIS AS AN OLD PROJECT DATING FROM JUNE 1974 AND EVOLVING FROM THE AGREEMENT SIGNED THEN TO CONSTRUCT AN AIRPORT AT/NEAR THE KIVU GAME PARK. HE WAS QUITE WILLING TO TALK ABOUT THE PROJECT, INDICATING THAT WE WERE NOT THE FIRST TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT IT. HE SAID THAT EVEN AFTER THE ORIGINAL PROJECT WAS STARTED THE GOZ KEPT CHANGING ITS MIND AS TO WHAT IT WANTED AND WHERE, FINALLY ENDING UP WITH THE GOMA DEAL. ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION BEGAN OVER SIX MONTHS AGO, AND THE AGREEMENT MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE WAS IN FACT THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE ORIGINAL FINANCING PACKAGE, TAILORED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE ACTUAL FINAL PROJECT.

3. APRIL 4 DCM TELEPHONED GOVERNOR SAMBWA TO INQUIRE ABOUT NEWS ARTICLE. AS EXPECTED, GOVERNOR SAMBWA FOLLOWED LINE OF FRENCH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, STATING THAT THIS WAS AN OLD PROJECT. DCM SAID: "IN OTHER WORDS, SIMILAR TO DOMSAT CONTRACT". SAMBWA REPLIED: " EXACTLY". DCM INQUIRED IF THIS COULD BE CONSIDERED A PRIORITY PROJECT. SAMBWA SAID: "THAT IS NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE".

SAMBWA CLEARLY INDICATED HE DID NOT REGARD THIS AS A PRIORITY PROJECT AND INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN A PARTY IN DECISION TO PROCEED WITH ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT SEE HOW THIS CAN BE REGARDED AS A PRIORITY PROJECT AND WE BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE A PRIME CANDIDATE AS AN EXAMPLE OF A QUESTIONABLE PROJECT WHICH COULD BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED. CONSEQUENTLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE U.S. IMF DELEGATE RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THIS PROJECT WHEN THE PROPOSED SECOND AND THIRD IMF CREDIT TRANCHE FOR ZAIREIS CONSIDERED. WE SUGGEST THAT THE U.S. DELEGATE PROPOSE THAT THE IMF MAKE POSTPONEMENT OF THIS PROJECT A CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDBY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AIRPORTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), DEVELOPMENT LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
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Status: NATIVE
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